

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055457

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT OF KABUL 1367 TO SECSTATE ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI TEHRAN

MAR 03

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1367

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

REF: A) MADRID 1393; B) STATE 46583

1. MOHAMMAD NAIM, BROTHER OF PRESIDENT DAOUD AND REPUTED
MAIN FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR OF PRESIDENT, ASKED ME TO COME
TO FOREIGN OFFICE MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS SECRETARY'S MESSAGE
TO PRESIDENT DAOUD.

2. NAIM SAID THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE
SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN
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RELATIONS. HE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATES THE SPIRIT REPRE-

SENTED BY THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE SHOWING U.S. INTEREST IN HELPING TWO FRIENDS IMPROVE A DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS SITUATION. HOWEVER, NAIM SAID, PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS SURPRISED AT THE SUBSTANCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE SINCE MR. NAIM HAD GIVEN THE PRESIDENT A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT OF HIS TALKS WITH SENATOR PERCY.

3. MR. NAIM SAID HE WAS SORRY IF HIS POOR ENGLISH OR HEARING PROBLEM

(NAIM HAS GREAT DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING CONVERSATIONS EVEN IN A QUIET ROOM) CAUSED SOME MIS-UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SENATOR PERCY. NAIM SAID THAT HE HAD GIVEN SENATOR PERCY THE BASES FOR AFGHAN POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN. NAIM SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO REITERATES HOSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. THEY ARE:
-- THERE IS NO ILL FEELING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN(GOA) TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN (GOP).
-- AFGHANISTAN DOES NOT WANT A WEAK OR DIVIDED PAKISTAN.
-- AFGHANISTAN HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST PAKISTAN.

4. NAIM SAYS HE TOLD SENATOR PERCY, AND HE AND PRESIDENT WISH TO BE SURE SECRETARY UNDERSTAF S, THAT AFGHAN VIEW OF PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT JUST AS MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAISTAN, THE GOP USED THE PRETEXT OF AN UNFORTUNATE KILLING TO TAKE PROVOCATIVE ACTION WHICH HAS POISONED THE ATMOSPHRERE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MR. NAIM SAID HE AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WHAT IS GOING ON IN PAKISTAN NOW IS AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH ONE ETHNIC GROUP IN THE COUNTRY IN A POSITION OF SUPREMACY.

5. NAIM THEN MADE EXTREMELY EMOTIONAL DISGRESSION SAYING THAT LONG-TERM BENEFIT OF BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN DEPENDEON DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS. NAIM SAID THE PROGPAGANDA MACHINE OF THE GOP WAS SHOWERING AFGHANISTAN WITH PERSONAL INSULTS (HE REFERED TO A BROADCAST FROM PESHAWAR TODAY IN WHICH PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS DESCRIBED AS "INSANE"). NAIM SAID HE HAD A CHANCE TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION IN DETAIL TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IN NOVEMBER AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WAS SORRY THAT THERE HAD BEEN SO MUCH FOR THE WORSE SINCE THAT CONVERSATION.

6. NAIM ASKED WHETHER I HAD ANY COMMENTS. I SAID THAT AS MR. NAIM KNEW, UNITED STATES WAS A FRIEND OF BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND THAT U.S. WAS HOPING THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD FIND A WAY TO RESUME A DIRECT, BILATERAL DIALOGUE. I SAID U.S. REGRETTED RECENT

DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS, INTERRUPTION
OF PLANNED TALKS, INCREASE IN LEVEL OF RHETORIC AND HOPED
THAT WAYS WOULD BE FOUND TO REDUCE PROPAGANDA.

7. NAIM REITERATED THAT AFGHANISTAN WANTED BETTER
RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

8. I ASKED WHAT KIND OF INITIAL STEPS AFGHANS MIGHT UNDER-
TAKE WITH PAKISTAN TO GET DIALOGUE STARTED. NAIM SAID
AFGHANISTAN'S POSITION WAS CLEAR, "WHAT MORE DID PAKISTAN
WANT?" HE SAID IT WAS NOW UP TO PAKISTAN TO MAKE FIRST
MOVE.

9. I STRESSED I WAS IN NO WAY ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY,
AND UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHED TO DIRECT CONTACT
BUT I WONDERED WHAT MOVE GOP MIGHT TAKE WHICH WOULD CONVINCE
AFGHANS THAT PAKISTAN WANTED RESUME DIALOGUE. AFTER
UTTERING A NUMBER OF GENERALITIES, NAIM FINALLY SAID
WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS "A SUBSTANTIAL (NAIM'S STRESS) MOVE
SUCH AS RELEASE OF THE NAP LEADERS AND BEGINNING TALKS WITH
THOSE LEADERS TO HARMONIZE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN."
I COMMENTED I THOUGHT THAT THIS "SUBSTANTIAL MOVE"
WAS QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY RATHER DIFFERENT
FROM SENATOR PERCY'S IDEA OF AN AGREEMENT TO TONE DOWN
RADIO BROADCASTS. NAIM SHOOK HIS HEAD SADLY AND SAID HE
WAS SORRY ABOUT THE MISUNDERSTANDING WITH SENATOR PERCY
BUT HOPED THE U.S. WOULD USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO CONVINCE
PAKISTAN THAT ALL AFGHANISTAN WANTS IS FOR "HARMONY" IN
PAKISTAN AND THEN "THE PAKISTANIS WILL SEE HOW QUICKLY
OUR RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE."

10. I TOLD MR. NAIM I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO THE
DEPARTMENT.
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11. COMMENT: NAIM WAS MUCH MORE STERN AND UNBENDING,
MUCH LESS THE OPTIMIST THAN HE WAS DURING TALKS IN KABUL
WITH AMBASSADORS ELIOT AND BYROADE LAST AUTUMN.
INCIDENTALLY, MR. NAIM DID NOT MENTION THE LIFTING OF THE
ARMS EMBARGO.

CURRAN UNQTE INGERSOLL

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